

# Woman's Chief Business

"Love of home and of what the home stands for converts the drudgery of daily routine into a high order of social service."  
Ellen Richards

## MAKING YOUR APARTMENT A SUMMER RESORT

### How to Get the Winter Stuffiness Out of the Apartment with Heavy Draperies and Furnishings.

By ELIZABETH LOUNSBERY.

WITH the first suggestion of Spring, which the city dweller sees in fitful glimpses of green grass and budding trees in the parks and in the replanted window boxes along the streets, comes the warning of approaching Summer. Considering the apparent change in our climate, in which Winter now stretches well out into Spring and Summer into Autumn, the housekeeper will do well to improve the few soft, balmy days that come during April and May, to prepare for the heat of June and the succeeding humidity of the following months.

The first step toward the renovation of the house is necessarily the spring cleaning and the elimination of articles not actually necessary.

In the house this process should commence at the top floor and continue on down to the cellar. In the apartment the bedrooms and living rooms should come before the service quarters and kitchen—the latter necessarily becoming the receiving place for the cleaning utensils and debris.

Cleaning should begin with the taking down of the over-draperies. These should be thoroughly brushed in the open air, then folded carefully with paper between the folds to prevent creasing and packed away in a closet—if such is available—or a chest or box couch and well covered. If there is no space to spare for such purposes, if the draperies need cleaning or renovating, many of the dyeing and cleaning companies, to whom they may be sent, are willing to store them through the summer without extra charge.

Next to be considered are the window draperies. These should be taken down, and if of muslin, scrim, madras or of material other than net should be allowed to soak in water several hours, during which time the water should be changed three or four times before they are laundered.

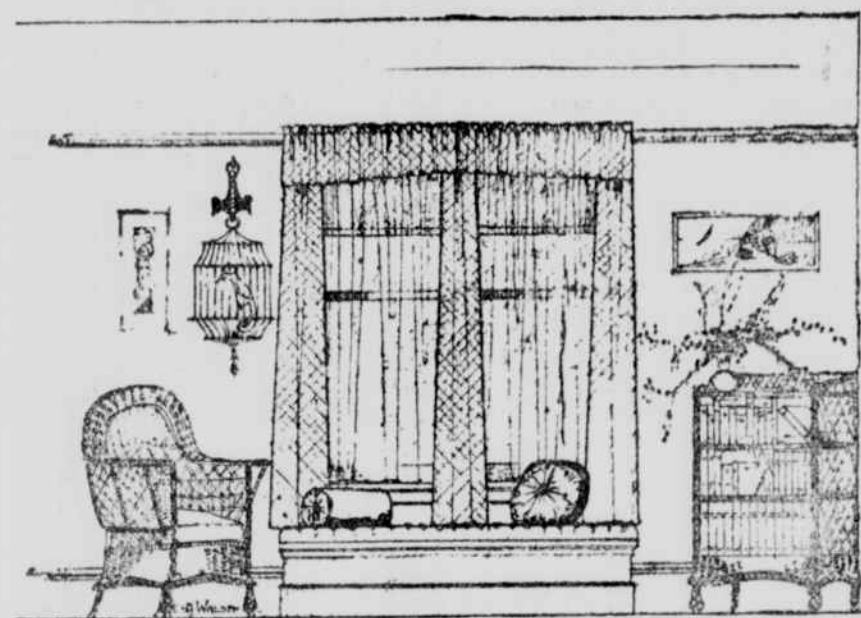
This is necessary to make them white and clean, as sheer material will not admit of the usual rubbing necessary to remove the soot and dust of the streets, with which they will be found to be discolored, in spite of the utmost care. Net curtains should be cleaned, otherwise the irregular edges and lengths obtained by washing will render them practically useless and the expense of replacing them greatly exceed the cost of cleaning them.

Should the curtains not be required for summer use they should be put away rough-dry—that is, thoroughly washed, but not starched

or ironed. This keeps them in better condition and less liable to crack and wear until such time as they are hung again. Net curtains should be cleaned as soon as they are taken down, or it will be difficult to restore their original whiteness if dust and dirt are allowed to remain in them for an indefinite period.

#### WHAT TO DO WITH THE RUGS.

Following the taking down of the curtains should come the removal of the carpets and rugs. These should be vacuum or steam cleaned and the necessary repairs made. Should they be no longer required for the



It would really cost but little to refurnish your apartment so that in summer you could come home to this.

summer, after being cleaned, they can be stored with the cleaner, or returned and wrapped in tar paper or, if that odor is found offensive, sprinkled with camphor and placed in a closet or disused room.

The cleaning of the closets is the next consideration. These should be washed out with a mild disinfectant, merely as a customary precaution that has become more and more the rule as attention to these details has increased.

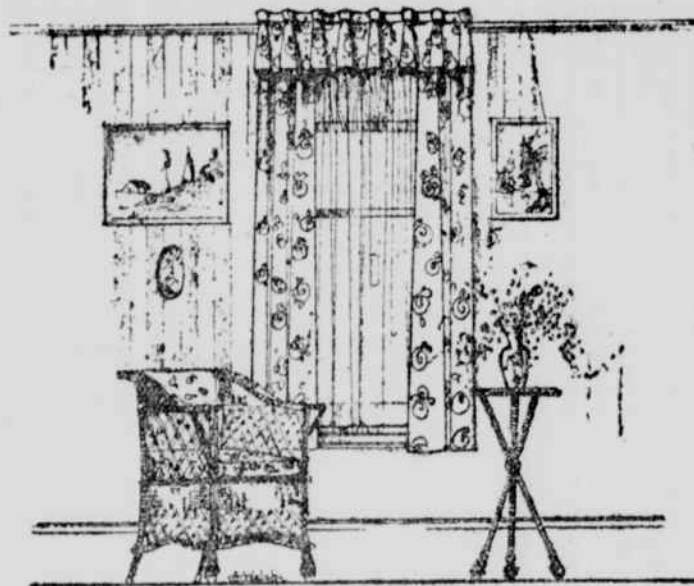
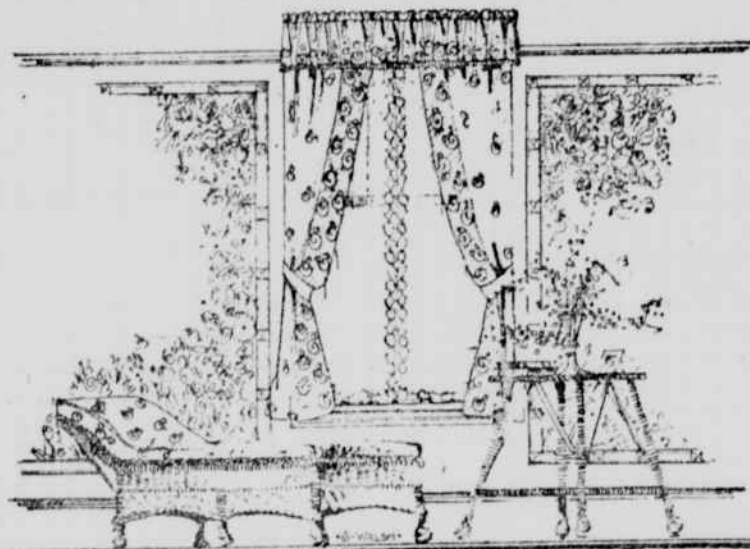
Heavy woollen wearing apparel and furs taken from the closets should now be thoroughly sunned and aired, and where a nominal expense for their care and security against moths can be afforded they should be sent to one of the many cold storage rooms now available.

Where this is considered an unnecessary out-

lay tar-paper bags, in which such articles can be laid or hung, will serve as a suitable protection. The accumulation of all clothing that is worn out and articles no longer of interest or use should now be given away or disposed of. Superfluous bric-a-brac should be washed or wiped off and put away, and only the lamps, vases that are suitable for holding flowers and such details as ash-trays left undisturbed.

In cleaning beds they should be taken apart, thoroughly washed with a disinfectant, if of metal; or wiped off on the inside with a cloth wet with the disinfectant, if the bedstead is wooden. The mattresses should be placed in the open air, where they may be beaten and brushed.

With the polishing of the floors, the necessary cleaning of the bathrooms and the



### Fresh and Dainty Furnishings of Chintz, Muslin and Wicker Seem to Keep Heat at Bay.

credible imitation, however, in cotton will be found quite as satisfactory and much cheaper. But the tendency now is to make the city house or apartment as cheerful as the country house, which assumes its most attractive appearance in summer, with its dainty muslin curtains, chintz hangings and furniture coverings, polished floors and harmoniously colored rugs. Where the color scheme has been one of sombre tones throughout the winter, brilliant coloring, in direct contrast, will prove a pleasing change. A cool, one-toned color treatment also is good.

A charming effect in the latter is seen in a plain cream white linen made into slip covers, bound with black braid. Table covers or squares to match are effective, and painted paper lamp shades of black and white, in which appears a touch of apple green. Green may be used again in the sofa cushions and about the room, and at the windows ferns and growing plants are cool and summerlike.

The flowered cretonnes and linens have won favor for this use, those with the small nosegays on gray or deep cream backgrounds being the most popular, especially for the bedroom. The same pattern may be carried out in the curtains, bed and furniture covers, the latter bound on the seams with the predominating color in plain material, instead of neutral colored tape. The cushions should be covered in plain colors that harmonize. The effect is extremely quaint and charming, especially when painted furniture is used. The linens and chintzes may be bought from 35 cents up.

For the living room or dining room chintz or linen of bolder design can be used. These cost from 65 cents to \$2.25 a yard and show chiefly the rich, decorative all-over designs of flowers, foliage and birds. The tendency to introduce the Bakst method of using strong colors in vivid contrast is seen in the striped linenized cottons, 35 cents to 50 cents a yard, but these, because of their very brilliancy,

seem more suitable for porch coverings than as a part of a color scheme with which to live. Vari-colored, checkered patterns in printed linens are also seen in great variety this season, but these have the same tendency to tire the eye.

For floor coverings, the woven wood-pulp fibre rugs, that suggest matting but have a closer weave and are more durable than the cheaper grades, are unquestionably the most satisfactory substitutes for the heavy rugs that have been removed and laid aside for winter use. The fibre rugs are shown with neutral colored centres and colored striped borders, and are made in several sizes at very reasonable cost. These can be cleaned by wiping with a damp cloth. The rag rugs, in solid colors with flowered borders, and those of the "hit and miss" weave are also desirable for summer use, but soil easily and are rather hard to clean. Checkered rugs should be used sparingly.

In the matter of curtains only the simplest washable cotton materials should be used. There is a growing disposition to use no curtains at all in summer, for with screens, that are yearly becoming more and more a necessity in the city, they only tend to shut out the air and with the added protection of awnings are really superfluous. Overdraperies of chintz to match the coverings used throughout the room are, however, desirable and do not act as a screen, for if one would have a cosy, homelike room, the overdraperies with a valance give the window opening its proper setting, and without them the room looks bare.

Now that it is possible to have the English glazed chintz refinished or "recalendered" here in America this will be found especially desirable for summer use, as it can be readily wiped off with a damp cloth when soiled and until such time as the glaze has disappeared. Wicker or willow furniture, as far as possible, should be used in place of upholstered pieces or furniture with wooden frames. A variety of comfortable chairs and couches comes in both wicker and willow.

Of all the accessories for summer decoration flowers are the most indispensable. They can be grown in the window boxes or brought from the country after a week-end visit. Anything, so that the vases and bowls about the house are constantly filled.

In fact, a clever housewife can with but little outlay create city surroundings so comfortable and delightful that the much dreaded heated term will pass unnoticed and undisturbed by longings for grass and trees.

## THE HOUSE THAT ELIMINATES HOUSEWORK

This is the first of two articles that give the result of a personal experiment in housekeeping by a business woman. Color instead of cost is her motto in furnishing. Next time she will tell you just how she manages her housekeeping.

By MARY FANTON ROBERTS.

HOUSEKEEPING should be the simplest, easiest, most enjoyable thing in the world. It is our own fault when this isn't true. Of course I do not mean housekeeping about that trail to the hospital and the insane asylum known as the old-fashioned farmhouse; I mean housekeeping in the modern way, with science as our principal hand-maiden.

If we avail ourselves of the opportunities at hand everywhere to-day to lessen the real burden of housework, then housekeeping should be every woman's joy, because it is both an artistic and economic delight. There is no way in which a woman can so completely prove herself an artist, political economist, almost a statesman, as in the management of her own home.

But she must approach it cheerfully, even humorously, and with all the brain that she would put into any business that interested her. There is no reason in the world why a home should not be as completely and as satisfactorily organized as a well conducted business; there is no reason why there should always be odds and ends of unfinished work. You would not permit this in your business office; you should not permit it in your home.

Two things can bring about a smooth running home establishment—organization and elimination. In fact, it is almost enough to say organization, because you cannot organize well without intelligent elimination. And this brings us right down to the point that most women, with or without servants, spend nine-tenths of their waking hours buying and taking care of wholly useless articles of furniture. The overcrowded house is a burden to every one in it; it presses comfort back to the wall; it is a mental and physical strain, and real beauty is impossible with it.

Of course, it is far better to begin housekeeping this way if only young women could be taught to eliminate in their purchases; that

would be the ideal thing. Perhaps I should say right here that my housekeeping never takes over half an hour a day, even when I am entertaining. Ordinarily I think it is managed in fifteen minutes.

Twice a year I give an entire day to freshening up my apartment. And I always purchase with elimination in view when I am house cleaning on those two delightful semi-annual holidays. I continue to simplify because there is nothing I enjoy so much as seeing how comfortable and charming an apartment can be made through this elimination process.

Most women imagine that they are buying things for the beauty and comfort of their homes. This is not true. They are buying things because there is a delightful excitement in bargain hunting and in purchasing charming things. And for the moment there is that hypnotism in a sale that makes us think we are really being economical by buying something we do not want and may never be able to use. Men sometimes have this same hypnotism. I have known a man who could never withstand a clock and another who was forever buying useless books, books he did not want to read and did not want to own; but he was the book bargain hunter. Men are apt to have it more along isolated lines. They meet their downfall before a variation of one object, and this is not so disastrous to the house and a little more humorous; but the housekeeper, through the bright art of the advertiser and the cheerful aspect of the department store, is lured into manifold purchases that clutter her house and clutter her spirit.

This does not mean that we advocate spending less money than the average woman does spend on her home, but it should be spent in a more concentrated way; she should buy better and more durable and more beautiful furniture, furniture that will be an heirloom; she should buy fewer rugs of finer quality, each one a priceless picture of itself; and this is not nearly so difficult as it seems. If you know good rugs you can find them in almost every city or town, and you can have beautiful ones woven to match the color scheme of your room if you desire, which costs you very little.

Possibly one of the greatest wasters of energy in the fitting out of a home is the use of white curtains. This may shock the thrifty housekeeper who cannot picture anything but dazzling lawn and muslin at her windows, and yet most interesting and charming effects,

warm and comforting, can be gained by the use of transparent colors—tea color, yellowish brown and, most interesting of all, madras with the background of yellow or orange or red or black with brilliant flowers standing out in the design. All that is necessary with these curtains is to give them a careful shaking once a month and for years you have their beauty without laundry or without sacrifice.

In speaking of the furniture I should have mentioned the fact that the first requisite of wisely selected furniture is no upholstery. If you want rich coloring use rugs that can be taken up easily and shaken, but do not fill your house with anything so unsanitary and so capable of making work as upholstered furniture.

It is hard to say how many hours of companionship, how many walks in the woods, how many delightful concerts or how many

cheerful afternoons of playmaking with your children upholstered furniture and white curtains may exact. And, after all, what are you seeking in your home is beauty, it is not tradition; and what I am suggesting is beauty, although it breaks tradition.

There are two things essential for a beautiful room: furniture good in construction and outline and plenty of vivid color. It is extraordinary what can be done to beautify every room in the house by wise and fearless selection of color.

In my long hallway I have a bench which conceals winter clothes in summer and summer clothes in winter. This is covered with three hard cushions. When I first went to housekeeping this seemed to me an opportunity for the display of a certain amount of rich material, and so I selected faint-toned embroidery, which speedily wore out, which never

gave a shadow of interest to the hall, which made an immense amount of careful dusting and brushing.

Last year I recovered these pillows with brilliant orange canvas costing eight cents a yard. As the long box is painted black the contrast between the orange and the woodwork was interesting to a degree. With a yellow covered night hanging from the ceiling and with some black shelves high on the walls carrying Mexican pottery and Syrian brass, with an orange fishwife's basket for letters and cards, the hall became at a stroke a vivid, brilliant bit of home furnishing costing almost nothing and inspiring almost every visitor who entered it to an exclamation of delight.

There is no doubt about the fact that the "new" art will inspire us to feats of daring in house furnishing, if only we will approach the subject fearlessly, break down every barrier of training and look out over life and say, "I like this because it is fresh and bright and inspiring."

As for my dining room, I have no tablecloths and my black oak table is decorated with blue and white Chinese embroidery, washable, or with Russian crash embroidery, washable, with Syrian brass that polishes into great brilliancy and with very little trouble as a flower-holder, with table napkins that match the table decoration, that are small, that can be always immaculate because no laundress can object to size or shape.

As a matter of fact, I have never owned a tablecloth any more than I have a white curtain, and I secured the best maid that could ever give service to any household by making this statement to her.

My dining room curtains are a wonderful gray and black and blue Chinese crepe; they are laundered twice a year and are both interesting, graceful and harmonious. My dining room rugs are black and blue and yellow rag rugs, costing three dollars apiece. They wash as easily as the curtains and are as easy to shake and freshen every week.

My dining room furniture and my dining room woodwork is all dull black, and an open closet is filled with Canton ware. A black oak buffet is covered with Brittany china, all inexpensive and easily replaced, all a part of a lovely color scheme. To secure lightness in the dining room the paper is ivory color, a very coarse texture, striking a very fresh keynote for the whole room and bringing the

To make your house beautiful and livable and at the same time so easy to care for that a busy woman, whose days are passed in an office, may enjoy a charming and well-ordered home, try what elimination and organization will do.

Canton china and the black woodwork into line as a decoration.

One would think the bedroom would be difficult, but it will bend to your will as readily as the sitting room. Keep in mind just the two things—furniture with good outline and permanent, so that a bedroom is only furnished once in a lifetime; and then remember COLOR. It is astonishing what can be done in the most economical fashion in the world with color in your bedroom.

You do not need a single bit of white from start to finish except in your sheets and pillow cases and towels. Of course, your walls may be ivory or white or pale yellow, whatever suits your color scheme. Then plunge into color for your window draperies, for the outside spread for the bed, for your rugs.

I have in mind one room with white rough walls, black woodwork and furniture and a strange, vivid red for draperies, with pale yellow window curtain. The rugs are rag rugs woven in blues, orange, red and black. On the mantel there are Russian red bowls and Hopi pottery, and there is a big armchair covered with an East Indian red and white cotton. On the red bed cover are red pillows and a pine-green pillow, and near the bed is a little kitchen table painted green to match and decorated in vivid flowers.

When the sun pours in this window through the pale yellow cheesecloth and lights up the red draperies it is one of the most beautiful rooms that I have ever seen, and it is also radiant at night. It is a wonderful room to rest in, to work in, and it is very difficult long to stay ill in such a room. I think all the color in the room, including the Russian bowls, cost eight dollars, and the furniture is of the simplest.

So much for the starting of a home with the love of color and the process of elimination. The management of such a home is quite as simple as the furnishing of it.

#### IT HAS BEEN MY EXPERIENCE—



WHENEVER two or more housekeepers are gathered together this phrase breaks through the general hum of conversation like a refrain, "It has been my experience"—

In meeting each day's needs the housekeeper solves so many problems and finds such satisfaction in the solution that it is natural for her to pass the experience on to her neighbor. But when a woman passes her experience on not only to her personal friends, but to thousands of women whom she has never seen, the glow of satisfaction becomes a veritable conflagration.

Laboratory experiments are most important in laying foundations, but the actual experiences of intelligent women who are grappling with everyday conditions in an everyday kitchen make a special appeal.

We want all the real experiences of this kind that we can get.

We will pay \$1 for each one that is printed, or for each recipe that proves trustworthy and original and finds its way into type.

The only provision is that they must be based on personal experience and not on hearsay.